GLOBAL VISION DISCUSSION

Report of the Social Science Libraries meeting

How a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future

July 31, 2017

Contributors

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Introduction

On July 31, 2017, in via Virtual meeting using WebEx_Meetings.ics 7 librarians from the Social Science Libraries – Standing Committee participated in a conversation about how a united library field can tackle the challenges of the future. Together we represent several decades of library experience.

The participants represented a variety of libraries. For example, University, Public, National, Corporate, independent consultant.

A vision for libraries

Libraries are accessible centres of reliable information where all members of a community are welcome. To make this vision reality, librarians must participate in the global information community where they freely exchange ideas and help each other overcome challenges.

The core values of libraries (Q4):

1.	Freedom of information
2.	Diversity
3.	Equal access
4.	Service to users

Libraries are exceptionally good at (Q5):

1.	Organizing and managing resources appropriate to user community
2.	Community connection and outreach
3.	Preservation of information
4.	Resource sharing

Libraries should do more of (Q6):

1.	Political expression
2.	Community involvement
3.	Global communication and resource sharing
4.	Working with small presses and other small businesses

5. Advocacy for freedom of expression
6. Privacy policy development
7. Extend copyright and licensing boundaries within teaching and learning environment

Comments:

Libraries should do less of (Q7):

1.	Negotiating with big vendors
2.	Accepting gifts and other forms of favours from business partners, especially at conferences
3.	Whining
4.	Collection centric activities and develop more services

Comments:

Challenges and solutions

The main challenges to society (Q8):

1.	Poverty
2.	War and political unrest
3.	Lack of education and lack of ability to reason
4.	Technology as disruption
5.	Lack of goodwill to help those in need

The main challenges to libraries (Q9):

1.	Lack of funding
2.	Community apathy
3.	Difficulty in defining uniqueness of libraries (how distinctive it is when compared to computing centers, student centers, Internet café, etc.)
4.	Demonstrating the value of investing in libraries and library services

Comments:

The main professional challenges (Q10):

Working with library educators to match curriculum with changing needs

1. keeping up with technology
2. Too much personal information collected by big business
3. Relevant curriculum in library schools
4. continued education of professionals
5. Funding

Comments:

How a united library field can make a difference

How should a united library field help meet the challenges identified (Q11)?

1. Global networking
2. Dedication to helping solve world problems
3. Standardization on how information is presented
4. enable access to have and "have nots"
5. Demonstrating how libraries contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda

Comments:

The characteristics of a united library field (Q12):

1. Communicative and open to new ideas
2. Aggressive in its pursuit of outstanding and relevant library services which support needs of community and society in general
3. Strategic
4. Collaboration and cooperation
5.
6.

Comments:

The focus of a united library field (Q13):

1.	Freedom of information on a global level
2.	Establishment of competency and standards for librarians in the 21st century.
3.	Create mechanism to disseminate IFLA Code of ethics for librarians https://www.ifla.org/publications/node/11092
4.	Make visible key IFLA Resources to help guide library professionals in the field
5.	